

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 2-20 without prejudice or dedication.

1. (currently amended) A method for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, comprising:

_____ inputting a plurality of questions, wherein said plurality of questions reflect a system design of said software system under development, and wherein said plurality of questions include questions regarding whether a configuration value associated with a component of said software system under development is the same for all users;

_____ generating a category array in response to said plurality of questions, wherein each element in said category array corresponds to a unique set of answers to said plurality of questions, and wherein each element in said category array contains a corresponding one of a plurality of design guidelines, each of said plurality of design guidelines indicating a name of a corresponding one of a plurality of data stores;

inputting ~~an at least one~~ operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development, wherein said operational characteristic is said configuration value associated with said component of said software system under development;

_____ displaying ~~providing~~ said at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic;

inputting at least one answer to said at least one question; ~~and~~

locating~~determining~~, responsive to said at least one answer and said category array, ~~at least one of said plurality of design guidelines~~ related to said at least one operational characteristic, wherein said located one of said plurality of design guidelines is a name of a data store to be used to store said operational characteristic; and
displaying said name of said data store to be used to store said operational characteristic.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

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14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)